

REMARKS

Pending Claims

Claims 9-19 were previously pending in the application and Claims 1-8 were previously canceled. By the present Amendment, Claims 9 and 13-18 are currently amended and Claims 10-12 and 19 remain unchanged.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a)

The claims stand rejected under the cited art of record. Specifically, Claims 9-12 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Damrath et al. (DE 100 63 669). Claims 13-19 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Damrath et al. (DE 100 63 669). However, in view of the amendments to claim 9 and the arguments presented herein, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections are overcome and requests that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Damrath et al. does not disclose a shirt-pressing device having areas with differing air permeability. In contrast, the presently disclosed and claimed device for smoothing out clothes includes areas of the inflatable inner or outer bodies having greater air permeability than adjacent areas:

“In locations where the side parts 31 and 32 are in contact with the outer inflatable body 2 in this way, the cut sections 5 of a moderate air permeability are provided, in this case forming the permeable areas. Thus, a greater amount of air can escape through these permeable areas over the cut section 5 and the adjacent area of the body section 21 of the outer inflatable body 2 than is the case in the areas of the body section 21 adjacent to the permeable area.”

Originally-filed specification, page 8, lines 12-18 (emphasis added).

These areas with greater air permeability can be aligned with portions of the clothing, for example along sleeves and pockets, that need a greater air flow in order to be dried and pressed:

In at least a portion of the contact area which is also referred to as the permeable area, there is also an air permeability in the material of at least one of the inflatable bodies, so a further increase in air supply to the clothing item through this inflatable area can be ensured. Therefore, seams

or areas having more than one layer of fabric, for example, can be smoothed and dried ideally in the permeable area. The air permeability of the material can be created, for example, by selecting a textile material having the stated air permeability or by creating openings in a tightly woven material.

Originally-filed specification, page 3, lines 1-7 (emphasis added).

In contrast, Damrath et al. does not disclose, teach, or suggest a device for smoothing clothing items comprising an inner and/or outer inflatable body with a contact area that has “a permeable area having a greater air permeability than an adjacent region of the contact area of the at least one of the inner and outer inflatable bodies.” Although the cited Damrath et al. reference is in German (except for the English-language Abstract), the same application issued as US Patent 6,840,412. From reviewing the US ‘412 patent, it is clear that Damrath et al. do not contemplate an inflatable shirt-pressing device wherein at least one of the inner and the outer inflatable bodies has an area with greater permeability than an adjacent area. Instead, Damrath et al. teach having inflatable bodies having uniform air permeability. See US ‘412, col. 4, lines 37-39.

Dependent claims 10-19 are allowable at least because they depend from allowable independent claim 9.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 9-19 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,



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